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11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 KEN BROWAR , et al

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 AMAZON.COM, INC., et al.,

17 Defendant.

Case No. 2:22-cv-09375-JLS-MRW
Hon. Micheal R. Wilner Presiding

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER

(MRW VERSION 4/19)

☒ Check if submitted without
material modifications to MRW form

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19 INTRODUCTION

20 1.1 PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

21 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
22 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
23 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may
24 be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to
25 enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this
26 Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
27 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
28 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment

1 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth
2 in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to
3 file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
4 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party
5 seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

6 1.2 GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

7 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer and pricing lists and
8 other valuable research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or
9 proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and
10 from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such
11 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other
12 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
13 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or
14 commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third
15 parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be
16 privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
17 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
18 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
19 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep
20 confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of
21 such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling
22 at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
23 information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information
24 will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so
25 designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,
26 non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public
27 record of this case.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Action: Ken Browar et al v. Amazon.com, Inc. et al; Case No. 2:22-cv-09375-JLS-MRW.

2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement.

2.4 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement, and the disclosure of which would put the Producing Party at a competitive disadvantage or would otherwise reveal its sensitive financial information, trade secrets, the personally identifiable information of its employees, agents or contractors, or other proprietary and highly sensitive information to the Receiving Party.

2.5 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.6 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

2.7 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

1 2.8 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
2 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
3 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

4 2.9 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
5 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
6 counsel.

7 2.10 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
8 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

9 2.11 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
10 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and
11 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
12 which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

13 2.12 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
14 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
15 support staffs).

16 2.13 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
17 Discovery Material in this Action.

18 2.14 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
19 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
20 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
21 and their employees and subcontractors.

22 2.15 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
23 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL –
24 ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

25 2.16 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
26 Material from a Producing Party.

27 3. SCOPE
28

1 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
 2 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
 3 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
 4 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
 5 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

6 Any use of Protected Material at trial will be governed by the orders of the
 7 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

8 4. DURATION

9 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
 10 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
 11 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
 12 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with
 13 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
 14 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
 15 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
 16 pursuant to applicable law.

17 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

18 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

19 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
 20 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
 21 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for
 22 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
 23 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,
 24 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
 25 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

26 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
 27 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
 28 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose

unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

(a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIALITY legend"), to each page that contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the

1 “CONFIDENTIALITY legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If
 2 only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
 3 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
 4 appropriate markings in the margins).

5 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify the
 6 Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all
 7 protected testimony.

8 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
 9 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the
 10 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
 11 appropriate CONFIDENTIALITY legend. If only a portion or portions of the
 12 information warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, will
 13 identify the protected portion(s).

14 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
 15 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
 16 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
 17 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
 18 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
 19 Order.

20 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

21 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
 22 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
 23 Scheduling Order.

24 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party will initiate the dispute
 25 resolution process (and, if necessary, file a discovery motion) under Local Rule 37.1
 26 et seq.

27 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding will be on
 28 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper

purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties will continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

(a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the Court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff;

(f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

7.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” only to:

(a) the Receiving Party’s Counsel, as well as employees of said Counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

(b) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), provided that the Receiving Party has disclosed to each Designating Party the expert’s name and employment information for the past 10 years (including past expert engagements) at least 14 days prior to the Expert accessing HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY, and provided that the Designating Party has not sent the Receiving Party a written objection to that Expert. Any objection shall state the reasons therefor. The objected-to Expert shall not have access to the HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY until the objection is resolved.

(c) The Court and its personnel;

(d) court reporters and their staff;

(e) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(g) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification will include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the

1 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification will include
2 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

3 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
4 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

5 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
6 the subpoena or court order will not produce any information designated in this
7 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
8 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
9 permission. The Designating Party will bear the burden and expense of seeking
10 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
11 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
12 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

13 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
14 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

15 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
16 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY
17 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.” Such information produced by
18 Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief
19 provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as
20 prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

21 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
22 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
23 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
24 confidential information, then the Party will:

25 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
26 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
27 agreement with a Non-Party;
28

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party will not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party will bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever

1 procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production
2 without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and
3 (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a
4 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work
5 product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated
6 protective order submitted to the court.

7 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

8 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
9 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

10 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
11 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
12 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
13 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
14 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

15 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
16 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
17 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
18 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
19 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
20 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

21 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

22 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
23 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
24 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
25 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
26 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
27 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
28 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same

person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

14. Any willful violation of this Order may be punished by civil or criminal contempt proceedings, financial or evidentiary sanctions, reference to disciplinary authorities, or other appropriate action at the discretion of the Court.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

Dated: June 23, 2023

By: /s/ Stephen M. Doniger
 Stephen M. Doniger, Esq.
 Kelsey M. Schultz, Esq.
 DONIGER / BURROUGHS
 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: June 23, 2023

By: /s/ Klaus H. Hamm
 Klaus H. Hamm, Esq.
 KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP
 Attorneys for Defendant

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 6/23/23

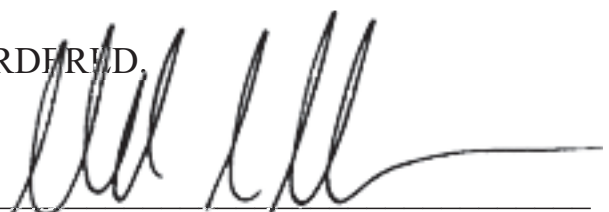

 Hon. Michael R. Wilner
 United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [full name], of _____ [full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the case of *Ken Browar et al v. Amazon.com, Inc. et al*; Case No. 2:22-cv-09375-JLS-MRW. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [full name] of _____ [full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____